



August 11-13, 2026

GREAT BEGINNINGS, GREAT FAMILIES

WHERE SUPPORT CONNECTS, FAMILIES THRIVE



TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

9:00 - 10:00 AM	In-House Registration Exhibitor Hall Opens BALLROOM FOYER		
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Opening Remarks Welcome from Tracy Moseman, ECFSD Administrator EMPIRE BUILDER & WESTERN STAR		
10:15 - 12:15 PM	Keynote: Supporting the Whole Child: Sensory Processing and Other Essential Developmental Milestones - Laura Olsonoski EMPIRE BUILDER & WESTERN STAR		
12:15 - 1:15 PM	LUNCH VISIT EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE ORIENTAL		
1:15 - 2:15 PM	IECMH and Its Impact on Family Serving Workforces in Montana - Hollin Buck w/ Amie Gatterdam, Jessica Wagner, Flora McCormick & Sheryl Hutzenbiler Location: EMPIRE BUILDER	Protecting Little Lungs: Wildfire Smoke's Impact on Early Childhood and How to Reduce Exposure - Mary Anderson Location: IRON HORSE BALLROOM	Does Your Child Need Extra Support? Learn What Resources and Services are Available for Children with Special Needs (PART 1) - Mark Douglass w/ Felina Lee, Jean Schroeder, Lucy Betz & Lynn McHann Location: WESTERN STAR
2:15 - 2:45 PM	BREAK VISIT EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE ORIENTAL		
2:45 - 3:45 PM	WIC Partnership and Referrals With the NEW Healthy Together App - Lacy Little Location: EMPIRE BUILDER	Advancing Child and Youth Health in Indigenous Communities Through School-Based and Mobile Care Models - Crystal Spring & Laura Larsson Location: IRON HORSE BALLROOM	Does Your Child Need Extra Support? Learn What Resources and Services are Available for Children with Special Needs (PART 2) - Mark Douglass w/ Felina Lee, Jean Schroeder, Lucy Betz & Lynn McHann Location: WESTERN STAR
3:45 - 4:00 PM	TRANSITION BREAK VISIT EXHIBITOR HALL ORIENTAL		
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Perspectives from Montana Families Panel Discussion Panelists: Family Panel Moderator: Lora Cowee EMPIRE BUILDER & WESTERN STAR		
5:15 - 6:30 PM	Networking Event BALLROOM FOYER & ORIENTAL Appetizers will be available. Drawings for Exhibitor Bingo - must be present to win!		



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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

7:00 - 8:00 AM

In-House Registration
BALLROOM FOYER

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Keynote: Disrupting Burnout - Dr. Patrice Buckner Jackson (Dr. PBJ)
EMPIRE BUILDER, WESTERN STAR & ORIENTAL

9:00 - 9:15 AM

TRANSITION BREAK

9:15 - 10:15 AM

Discovering Your Brilliance - Dr. Patrice Buckner Jackson (Dr. PBJ)

Location:
EMPIRE BUILDER & ORIENTAL

Montana 988: Keeping Montana Families Safe in a Mental Health Crisis - John D. Tabb

Location:
IRON HORSE BALLROOM

Partnering with Families in Tribal Communities: A Relationship-Based Approach to Disabilities Support - Rickielynn Hughs & Hilary Gorneau

Location:
WESTERN STAR

10:15 - 10:30 AM

TRANSITION BREAK

10:30 - 12:00 PM

Understanding Families Through Culture: A Hofstede-Based Approach for Providers, Practitioners, and Communities - Samuel Koranteng

Location:
EMPIRE BUILDER

Babies Pay the Bills: Rethinking Infant Toddler Care Through a Business Lens - Jason Nitschke

Location:
ORIENTAL

Safe Pathways to Care: Building a Perinatal Substance Use Lived Experience Model - Marcy Hanson, Sarah Reese, Jacqueline Kline, David Quattrochhid, Bobbi Roysdon

Location:
WESTERN STAR

12:00 - 1:00 PM

LUNCH
BALLROOM FOYER



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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 (CONTINUED)

1:00 - 2:00 PM

We are Builders: Strengthening Montana Through Building a Network of Support and Connection - Melissa Winger

Location:
EMPIRE BUILDER

Peer Recovery Doulas in Montana - Pam Ponich & Lanita Hoskinson

Location:
ORIENTAL

From Meltdowns to Milestones: Understanding Behavior Through the Pyramid Model - Lynn McHann & Felina Lee

Location:
WESTERN STAR

Caring for the Whole Person: Helping Mothers See Themselves - April Quinlan

Location:
IRON HORSE BALLROOM

2:00 - 2:15 PM

TRANSITION BREAK

2:15 - 3:15 PM

Montana Bright Futures B-5: Evaluation Themes & Sytem Alignments - Allison Wilson

Location:
EMPIRE BUILDER

Reimagining Family-Center Care in Urban Indian Communities - Jason Smith

Location:
ORIENTAL

Adolescent Headquarters: The Brains, The Behaviors, The Blueprints - Maria Hamm & Jonelle LaPiere

Location:
WESTERN STAR

Inspiring Early Math Through Play - Rebecca Berlin

Location:
IRON HORSE BALLROOM

3:15 - 3:30 PM

BREAK

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Completing the Circle: Adapting Existing Programs and Systems to Serve All Parents - Patrick Duganz

Location:
EMPIRE BUILDER

Talking About It Matters: Understanding STIs and Reducing Stigma in Reproductive Health - Melissa Snyder & Cara Murolo

Location:
ORIENTAL

From Isolation to Connection: Family Peer-to-Peer Support as a Lifeline for Caregivers of Children with Special Needs - Ioluisa Libertelli-Dunn

Location:
WESTERN STAR

Nourishing Children, Supporting Families: How Accreditation Strengthens Early Childhood Programs - Tiffany Krushensky

Location:
IRON HORSE BALLROOM



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

7:00 - 8:00 AM

In-House Registration
BALLROOM FOYER

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Keynote: More Than a Meal: Why Cooking Matters - Mariah Gladstone
EMPIRE BUILDER, WESTERN STAR & ORIENTAL

9:00 - 9:15 AM

TRANSITION BREAK

9:15 - 10:15 AM

**Is This Child Gifted?
How to Know and
What to Do** - Jenny
Jarvis

Location:
EMPIRE BUILDER

**Building Empathy and
Understanding:
Experiencing the
World Through the
Eyes and Ears of
Children with Sensory
Differences** - Lace
Lesofski & Alice
Anderson

Location:
ORIENTAL

**Strengthening Families
Through Protective
Factors: A Family-
Centered Approach for
Early Childhood
Professionals** - Jen
Burckhard & Christi
Thomas

Location:
WESTERN STAR

10:15 - 10:30 AM

TRANSITION BREAK

10:30 - 11:30 AM

CLOSING KEYNOTE
**Reflective Practice in Early Intervention: Staying Grounded While
Supporting Complex Family Needs** - Trista E. Vonada
EMPIRE BUILDER, WESTERN STAR & ORIENTAL

11:30 - 12:00 PM

Closing Remarks, Raffle & Evaluations
EMPIRE BUILDER, WESTERN STAR & ORIENTAL

A short description of each presentation will be posted to the conference website
umt.edu/great-beginnings-great-families when available.